

To: Senate Co-Chair Catherine Osten
House Co-Chair Peter Tercyak
Senate Ranking Member Joe Markley
House Ranking Member Richard Smith
Honorable Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Erin B. Jones
Probate Court Officer

Re: HB 5066: An Act Concerning Certain Workers' Rights to Collectively Bargain

Date: February 18, 2014

I am a Probate Court Officer in the New London Regional Children's Probate Court. I am in support of HB 5066: An Act Concerning Certain Workers' Rights to Collectively Bargain.

I have worked for the children's probate court for approximately 5 ½ years. With a previous employer, I was a union member. Therefore, I can tell you from personal experience that there is a significant difference in quality of life. In my previous position, I had a right to be at the bargaining table and negotiate a salary and benefits that were commensurate with my experience and the demands of the position. Working for Probate Court Administration, we do not have that voice. We have no rights. Probate Administration is aware of this and uses it to its advantage.

Recently, Probate Administration instituted a flawed system of wage parity. It was not based on our work, experience, education or credentials or any other rational system. It was based on what the lowest salaries are for the position. Therefore, this compensation plan is neither fair nor competitive.

I respectfully request that you support this proposal.